

Minister housing ruling appealed

DALLAS (BP and local reports) — A federal judge's ruling that the minister housing allowance is unconstitutional has been appealed by government lawyers who argue the allowance should be upheld. The appeal will be heard by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

The November decision by Senior U.S. District Judge Barbara Brandiff Crabb, who was appointed to the bench in 1979 by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, was stayed pending appeal, meaning it had no immediate impact on ministers.

The court challenge to the minister housing allowance was brought by the Freedom From Religion Foundation in Madison, Wis. The organization's web site contains the following statement: "The Foundation works as an umbrella for those who are free from religion and are committed to the cherished principle of separation of state and church."

The appeal, being waged by U.S. Department of Justice attorneys, provides an opportunity for the federal appeals court to uphold the longstanding statute that allows churches to provide a tax-free housing allowance to ministers.

"Pastors and others in ministry are facing challenges here in the United States that would have been unthinkable as little as a decade ago," said Tim Head, GuideStone Financial Resources executive officer for denominational and public relations services who was a lawyer before being called into ministry.

"While we welcome news of the government's appeal, we recognize this case is far from settled, and we remain engaged to advocate for the housing allowance benefit."

GuideStone, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention previously known as the Annuity Board, is part of a longstanding coalition of ministerial benefit boards and

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FUTRAL EXHORTS LEGISLATORS



Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), addresses legislators and MBCB staffers who attended the annual Legislative Prayer Breakfast Jan. 9 in the Sky Room of the Baptist Building in Jackson. The breakfast, intended as a time of prayer and encouragement for state legislators and the responsibilities they face, is hosted each year at the beginning of the legislative session by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission and is supported by gifts to the Cooperative Program. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Abedini transferred to new ward

TEHRAN, Iran (BP and local reports) — American pastor Saeed Abedini, held in a brutal Iranian prison for more than a year and a half after being convicted of charges stemming from his Christian faith, has been transferred from the prison's murderer ward to the political prisoner ward — something a key supporter called "an improvement, but not a victory."

ABEDINI

Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the American

Center for Law and Justice (ACLIJ) in Washington, D.C., said Jan. 22 the Iranian-American pastor remains in the deadliest prison in Iran, Rajai Shahr Prison, facing deteriorating medical conditions.

Still, Sekulow called the move the first positive step since Abedini's transfer from Evin Prison last November. "For the first time in six weeks, Pastor Saeed's Iranian family was able to visit with Pastor Saeed today in his new prison ward," Sekulow wrote in an update to supporters.

"No reason was given for the move and his family reports that this new ward, still within the dangerous walls of Rajai Shahr, represents a slight improvement in his

treatment. Pastor Saeed is now receiving better meals."

Abedini, an American of Iranian descent, was arrested in August 2012 while working to build an orphanage in Iran and was sentenced the next month to eight years in prison for "threatening the national security of Iran" through his leadership in Christian house churches in the early 2000s, when house churches were not illegal in Iran.

Abedini still is vomiting regularly and coping with severe abdominal pain, according to his family, but he was allowed finally to be examined by a prison doctor. The physician, who reportedly

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

A worldwide scam on the World Wide Web

Beloved in Christ, Calvary Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I have been briefed to contact you because of passion for humanity and sympathy for people with just causes. I am a new Christian convert, suffering from long time cancer.

From all indications my condition is really deteriorating and it is quite obvious that I won't live more than six months. It has defiled all forms of medical treatment, and right now I have only about a few months to live, according to medical experts. I have not particularly lived my life so well, as I never really cared for anything but my business. Though I am very rich. But now I regret all this as I now know that there is more to life than just wanting to have or make all the money in the world.

I want God to be merciful to me and accept my soul so, I have decided to give alms to charity organizations and those in need, as I want this to be one of the last good deeds I do on earth. So far, now that my health has deteriorated so badly, I cannot do this myself anymore. The last of my money which only my Attorney knows of is the huge cash deposit of Five Million United States Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) that I have with an Asset Management / Vaulting Company Abroad. I will want you to help me collect this deposit. I am willing to donate this 5 million U.S. dollars to you for the less privilege and for practical Christian service and concern.

And upon my instruction, my attorney, who presently is in Accra Ghana distributing relief materials to victims and an application for the Transfer of the money in your name. Lastly, I honestly pray that this money when it get to your hand will be used for the said purpose. So if you know that you will use this fund honestly for things that will glorify God's name and purpose of God's work, then do urgently contact me back and the details will be given to you on how you will be able to receive the fund.

Anyone with a computer and an e-mail address has likely received at least one such plaintive message lately — if not a whole slew of them. At The Baptist Record, the count for just this year is several hundred such messages.

The names and reply addresses may be different, but the point is always the same: The writer is a rich but dying new Christian, always overseas, seeking to give away his fortune to someone who will use it properly to ensure his entrance into heaven. All that need be done is to contact the writer for instructions on how to transfer the money.

If the recipient does reply, he/she is usually told to withdraw a substantial

sum of money from their own bank account and send it to the writer, so that the writer's money can be freed up. Then, according to the writer, all of the recipient's money plus the newfound fortune will be sent back to the recipient.

It all sounds too good to be true, and it is. These are Internet scams of the highest order.

The scheme relies on convincing a willing victim, who has demonstrated a 'propensity for larceny' by responding to the invitation, to send money to the author of the letter in Nigeria in several installments of increasing amounts for a variety of reasons," reports the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), referring to a particular scam that originates in the African nation of Nigeria.

"Payment of taxes, bribes to government officials, and legal fees are often described in great detail with the promise that all expenses will be reimbursed as soon as the funds are spirited out of Nigeria. In actuality, the millions of dollars do not exist and the victim eventually ends up with nothing but loss," the FBI states.

Once the victim stops sending money, the perpetrators have been known to use the personal information and checks that they received to impersonate the victim, draining bank accounts and credit card balances until the victim's assets are taken in their entirety. While such an invitation impresses most law-abiding citizens as a laughable hoax, millions of dollars in losses are caused by these schemes annually," the FBI warns.

There are many variations on this Internet scam, some involving the expressed desire to plant new churches, donate large sums to a seminary, or provide Bibles to people groups who have none. It's hard to believe folks fall for such a pitch but, according to the FBI, it happens often.

It's particularly egregious when Southern Baptists fall prey to such artifice, because we already have the best system in the Protestant world to fund such mission endeavors. We don't need to respond to scams foisted on us in the Name of the Lord to accomplish our duty under the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Southern Baptists have the Cooperative Program, the missions offerings, and many other ways to support the spreading of the Gospel that have been proven effective and cost-efficient. If there are any doubts about whether a program is worthy of our involvement — spiritually as well as financially — we must be willing to do the research and ask the hard questions to be sure the cause is legitimate.

Don't waste your money. Don't waste the Lord's money. Don't respond to these scams. Do the right thing.

Making prayers effective

What makes prayer effective? Is it the number of words, our tone of voice, or how many people hear us pray? James 5:16 says, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

What exactly is an effective prayer life? While not exhaustive, the following list of essentials will help us as we seek to have effective prayer lives in this new year:

Be clean before God. James considers confessing sin a prerequisite to praying effectively. Righteous means to be right with God. To be right with God, we must have a relationship with God. Those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus and seek to follow Him are those who have the right to affect circumstances when they pray.

Righteous also means to be clean, free from unconfessed sins. Repentance, or turning away from sins that so easily entangle us (Hebrews 12:1), is an ongoing, daily, sometimes hourly, occurrence. But keeping a clean slate with God and man is a key to uninterrupted, effective praying. (Psalm 66:18 and Isaiah 59:1-2.)

Know God. The more we know the character and ability of the One to whom we pray, the more confidence or faith we have that our prayer will be heard and answered. That is why Bible reading is so important. Like Moses we can pray, Lord, "let me know Your ways that I may know You." (Exodus 33:13).

Discipleship is all about getting to know God, His ways, His character, and His purposes for us and our lives.

Seek God first. Jesus teaches us to be anxious for nothing. In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus teaches us to depend on our Father to provide for all our needs, to forgive us when we fail, and to protect us from evil. With our temporary and practical needs taken care of, we can focus on God's glory and pray for His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says to "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things [practical needs] will be added to you." Prayers that accomplish much are in line with God's will and seek to bring glory to Him alone.



Guest opinion
with Elaine Helms

Abide in God's Son. Effective prayer is in partnership with God. Jesus teaches us how this works in John 15:1-11 with the parable of the vine. Verses four and five clarify our dependence on God. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Believe you will receive. Jesus was walking with His disciples when He became hungry. Seeing a barren fig tree, he cursed the tree and it withered at once. The disciples were amazed and asked how this happened.

Jesus answered in Matthew 21:21-22, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Jesus often emphasized the importance of belief, as He does in Matthew 9:28-29; Mark 9:19, 23; Luke 8:48, 50; and John 5:44.

Be available. We can get distracted by all the activity and tugs on our lives from the world. Apparently that has been the problem throughout history. In Ezekiel 22:30 God says, "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one."

God is still searching for an intercessor who is available and who will pray without ceasing. Jesus highlighted this in Luke 18:1 when He said we ought to pray at all times and not lose heart.

see HELMS on p. 9

THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda L. Wattlebaum
bwattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record
Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora
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Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



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KIEV CONFRONTATION — Ukrainians protesting against government corruption and new laws designed to stifle dissent have blocked off busy streets in Kiev and set up Liberty Square in the downtown area. (BP photo)

Ukraine Baptists pray for peace during troubled days

KIEV, Ukraine (BP) — Amid months-long protests that recently turned violent in Ukraine, observers are warning that hastily imposed anti-dissent laws inadvertently threaten religious liberty and the future of Christian ministries in the Eastern European nation.

The unrest began in November when protestors began demanding the president's resignation over accusations of corruption and a decision to strengthen ties with neighboring Russia rather than agreeing to a modernizing trade deal with the European Union.

In what is being called a crucial historical time for Ukraine, President Viktor Yanukovich agreed to some concessions in talks with opposition leaders Jan. 24. One of those concessions reportedly is to change the harsh anti-protest legislation, the Associated Press said.

The package of legislation suppressing political dissent was rammed through Parliament in mid-January by Yanukovich supporters, but the president agreed to revisit the action in an upcoming special legislative session.

As it is, the legislation categorizes protesting against the government as "slander," punishable with a 15-year prison term, and it calls organizations that receive funding from outside Ukraine "foreign agents," penalizing them with a tax, according to Mission Network News.

Michael Cherenkoff of the Kiev-based Russian Ministries likened the new laws to Stalin's Soviet Union of 1937. Many of the Christian ministries operating in Ukraine previously operated in Russia but left because of religious free-

dom concerns, Mission Network News reported.

"It's much like Russia's laws but much worse," Cherenkoff told Mission Network News.

Slander is not clearly defined under the new legislation, and Cherenkoff said this is "a very Soviet approach to the church [and] to society." Usually, citizens would be given time to express their opinions about potential new laws, but in this case the president signed the legislation with no chance for discussion.

Young leaders of evangelical churches in Ukraine initiated a roundtable in Kiev Jan. 17 to discuss implications of the new laws, including how the church should react to the sudden threat of dictatorship after more than 20 years of independence, Mission Network News said.

"A final de-Sovietization of our post-USSR society and the birth of a new generation of leaders is taking place," pastor Oleg Magdych said.

With a population of 45 million, Ukraine is experiencing tension between an older generation with loyalty to Russia and a younger generation with ties to Western influence, particularly the European Union.

"Young people are oriented to the West, to the world's standards of life, education and democracy," Cherenkoff said, "but our older people lean more toward the Soviet system."

Despite the threats, the evangelical leaders agreed the church is needed in Ukraine as much as ever to provide stability in the upheaval. They declared their readiness to continue Christian ministry, Mission Network News said, adding that the group was challenged to support peaceful protesters by prayer,

witnessing, and practical help.

In December, Mission Network News reported that a spiritual wind was blowing throughout Kiev's Independence Square, where protesters were camping out en masse. Cherenkoff was manning a prayer tent inside the square, and he repeatedly heard protesters call on Jesus and ask for God's mercy.

Some protesters even asked for copies of the New Testament in the Ukrainian language, Cherenkoff said, prompting a fund-raising effort by Russian Ministries that led to 100,000 copies of the Gospel of John being distributed among the protesters, Mission Network News said.

Though the majority of the protests have been peaceful, two people were killed in a clash with police Jan. 22 and protesters have seized government buildings, with some shouting "Revolution!" according to AP. Mission Network News characterized some of the protesters as "thugs trying to take advantage of a lawless situation."

International Mission Board workers Brady and Millie Sample (not their real names) serve near the area where the violence occurred. "It's a real mess down there," Brady said. "Barricades every few feet with guards, tents everywhere."

For the most part the Samples are going about their lives normally. Brady works closely with the Ukrainian Baptist Union, the largest evangelical association of churches in the country, which is calling for members to pray for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"They are not taking sides and not encouraging the protests," Brady said. "They are praying for our country to turn to God."

New Egypt constitution leaves some hopeful; others still concerned

CAIRO, Egypt (BP) — Egyptian voters have approved a new constitution, leaving Christians a bit more hopeful though the document does not secure basic rights for religious minorities.

One Egyptian Christian leader said the difference in attitudes he observed as he waited in line to vote was "a great tendency to celebrate a new Egypt that returned us back from the iron grip of radical Muslims," Mission Network News reported.

The country's new constitution was approved by 98.1 percent of the 38.6 percent of eligible voters who turned out for a two-day referendum in mid-January as the first step of a so-called road map to democracy. Next are presidential and parliamentary elections later this year.

Christians are expected to fare slightly better under the new constitution compared to the one drafted during the one-year presidency of Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood, who was removed from office last July.

Specifically, the blasphemy statute that prohibited the "insult or abuse of all religious messengers and prophets," which was used against Christians, has been removed, according to Morning Star News, which reports on the persecuted church worldwide.

Still, the new constitution, which is regarded as generous toward the military, renders Christians and other non-Muslims second-class citizens, and establishes Islam as the state religion and sharia (Islamic law) as the "principle source of legislation" for Egypt.

Even human rights activists agree the relative improvement does not provide guarantees for the exercise of numerous rights and liberties addressed by the constitution, Morning Star News reported.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry raised concerns Jan. 18 about the fairness of the vote, given that it was nearly unanimous. The New York Times said Kerry mentioned the "polarized political environment," the absence of an inclusive drafting process or public debate before the vote as well as the arrests of those who campaigned against it.

"Democracy is more than any one referendum or election. It is about equal rights and protections under the law for all Egyptians, regardless of their gender, faith, ethnicity or political affiliation," Kerry said.

Christians in Egypt "seem lined up behind the constitution," Morning Star News noted as the vote was underway. "It is hard to find a Copt [member of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt's largest Christian minority] who says they will vote against it, even if they



NEW DAY? — An unidentified Egyptian woman shows her inked finger after voting on the new constitution approved by 98% of voters, giving Christians hope that the country has returned, as one voter observed, "from the iron grip of radical Muslims." (BP photo courtesy of Morning Star News)

don't support it. One reason for this, human rights activists said, is the perception that the country will otherwise continue its descent into chaos or revert to the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood or hardline Salafis."

Another reason for support among Christians, Morning Star News said, is that the leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church urged followers to vote in favor of it.

"I will vote yes, but I am not happy about it," a Coptic Christian in Cairo said. "[The constitution] means we are ruled by Islamic rules. Still, it's very, very good compared to Morsi's."

David Curry, president of Open Doors USA, visited Egypt ahead of the referendum and observed that people were hoping to move on after three years of instability and economic hardship following the Arab Spring. "The people are generally excited about a chance for some stabilization," he said.

"The last couple of years have really been what we're calling an 'Arab Winter' in Egypt where the Islamic radical forces — those that would be less about religion and more about regimes — cracked down on Christians," Curry said, according to Mission Network News.

Egypt recently declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, boosting optimism among believers. Regarding the new constitution, Curry said he believes the Christian community "is looking at this as an opportunity for some more freedoms."

Curry noted, though, that some are concerned the Muslim Brotherhood will not fade from power without a fight. "They're going to be on the outside now for a long time and they're going to continue to lash out, but I hope that the government will take steps to protect soft targets like churches."

One morning I was in the process of stirring up my oatmeal breakfast concoction, and I went to the fridge to get a carton of milk. I picked up the container and I realized that it was just about empty, but there was enough for me to fix my breakfast. Before I opened and poured, it just dawned on me that I ought to check the expiration date. As you know, that is the date on so many of our products whether canned goods, bread, potato chips, and, of course, milk. Most of them say, sell by the date ... or something like, best used by the date... indicating that this stuff can go bad. As I looked at the milk carton, I saw that the milk was one day past the sell by date. Then the question or the questions began to come to my mind. What if the store had sold it on the day before? Does the buyer have two or three days or a week in order to consume it? Or if it is just one day after the sell by date does everything disintegrate and go bad? I honestly did not know how long the sell by date affects the user.

I actually did not want to use it but neither did I want to go to the grocery store and get some more. So I looked at it and it looked okay. I sniffed it and it smelled okay. My third test was that I would taste it and if it seemed to be okay, I would give it a shot. The milk passed the taste test so I ate my breakfast and headed into the day wondering if later on in the day I would regret consuming the milk after the sell by date. While I thought about it several times during the day, I was fine and unaffected.

It did get me to thinking about all of these products that you and I buy, use and may not notice as carefully as we should. It may be milk, medicine, bread or hot dogs. At what point do we decide that this is ruined and I should not use it because it will ruin me? Years ago, before products had any kind of indicators of time or usage on them, the consumer had means of trying to determine whether or not this is something that I want to use. The tests back then are valuable now. Look at it, smell it and do a taste test. Now all of that started me to thinking about people and specifically God's



Expiration Date

people. It might have been helpful if somewhere on these complicated bodies that we have there was a little gauge or maybe just a sign stamped on that said, "Use by or don't consume after (a date)." Through the years I have watched as people have served the Lord for a little while and then apparently there was a notice that said, "This product will spoil by a certain date." You wonder what in the world wrecked and ruined them. It is really hard to know what causes some people or at least their spiritual life to spoil and no longer be good for anything other than being thrown out. That is what Jesus indicated in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, "When salt loses its flavor, its savor, it is no longer good for anything but to be cast out and trodden under the foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

I know that is salt, but what happens to people who at one time served the Lord but now do not? Unlike products that may be in the dairy section or on food shelves, time is not the only factor. I have seen numerous saints through the years who are vibrant, alive, well and faithfully serving the Lord and they are beyond 100 years of age. In fact, I probably should write an article on the century saints that I have known that have

inspired, encouraged and blessed my heart.

No, it is not just time. It must be something else because while I know many senior adults who are faithfully serving the Lord, I know of some young adults and medium adults who have already logged months or years of inactivity and lack of involvement in Kingdom work. Now they used to be involved and they used to be alive and well. Frequently, I will run into someone that I had the privilege of being their pastor years ago. They may have been so involved in the activities, worship and leadership, but now they are disconnected from the church and uncaring about allowing the Lord to make a difference in their life and using them to make a difference in the lives of others. Occasionally, with someone that I am close to I will ask, "What happened?"

While some would just prefer not to talk about it, the range of reasons is broad and covers from just drifting away, bad experiences at the church to sad experiences in their own personal life. For some, it seemed as though when it came to their usefulness to Jesus, they had passed their expiration date. It can be heartbreaking to them and to those of us who have known them. But here is the

good news and the bottom line news as to why God probably did not stamp a use by date on us. The fact is that God can touch us, raise us up and use us again in spite of our expiration date. Do not let somebody else stamp an expiration date on your heart, forehead or anywhere else.

Today God wants to do something in your life. If you are 16, 60 or 116, it does not matter. God can restore you, use you and bless others through you. Just think about it! How many people looked at Simon Peter and how many preachers have preached series of sermons about him and his mess-ups in ministry? How many of us have accusingly talked about him denying Jesus three times? I wonder if the thought may have occurred to some people that it looked like his expiration date had passed. But the Lord had so much more in store for him.

Peter would be the great strong voice of the Gospel on the Day of Pentecost and 3,000 people would be saved. He would be the significant leader of the young, fledgling church. He would become undaunting in his faithfulness and in his faith in the living Lord Jesus.

I think about the young man, John Mark, who tried to become a missionary working alongside Paul and for whatever reason abandoned the trip and returned home. The Apostle Paul may have thought that John Mark's expiration date was past only to discover years later that he needed him in his ministry. He writes to Timothy and says, "Take Mark, and bring him with you when you come for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11). It could be you or me, that others may think are through, or maybe we think that we are all washed up. It is all over and the Lord cannot use us anymore, but that is wrong thinking. So today, do not bother looking at your expiration date. Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, and allow Him to do what He wants to do in you that is good, fresh, new, and will be a blessing to others.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

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Clue: J = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos 8:9

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Florida Baptist Convention to appeal \$12.5M civil award

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)

— An attorney for the Florida Baptist Convention has voiced confidence that a judgment by a jury to award \$12.5 million to a man molested by former church planting pastor Douglas W. Myers will be overturned on appeal.

"That confidence is based, in large part, on the jury's express finding that Myers was an independent pastor who was not hired, employed, or supervised by the convention," said Gary Yeldell, the Florida Baptist Convention's attorney-of-record.

The Lake County jury reached its judgment Jan. 18 after a six-day trial on the issue of damages.

Yeldell said as a general rule the Florida Baptist Convention does not specifically comment on pending litigation, but noted: "The recent verdict from the trial in Lake County is not yet final, nor will the matter be concluded once the trial verdict becomes

final. The convention remains confident that the appellate court will overturn the jury's verdict."

In June 2012, the Florida convention filed two post-trial motions in the case seeking reversal of an "inconsistent" May 17 jury verdict that found it liable for sex abuse committed by Myers, 64, who was found guilty and in 2012 completed serving a seven-year sentence for molesting a 13-year-old in 2005 while pastor of Triangle Community Church in Eustis, Fl.

A prior judge ruled that liability and damages had to be tried separately. After a two-week trial in May 2012, the jury found Lake County Association and Bay Street Church at least partially at fault although each party had previously made a financial settlement with the plaintiffs.

In a statement published in June 2012, John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer

"The recent verdict from the trial in Lake County is not yet final, nor will the matter be concluded once the trial verdict becomes final. The convention remains confident that the appellate court will overturn the jury's verdict."

Gary Yeldell

Florida Baptist Convention's attorney-of-record

of the Florida Baptist Convention, indicated "the good news is that the jury found that the church planter/pastor was never an employee of the Florida Baptist Convention."

Sullivan added: "...regardless of the outcome of the motions — or the likely appeal to the appellate courts — we cannot let this case hinder our efforts to support church planting efforts in our state."

An argument made in the January 2014 case for liability directed attention to the con-

vention because of a grant to Lake County Association for church planting and the listing of the churches in a Florida Baptist Convention Annual and among new church plants in articles supplied to the Florida Baptist Witness by the Florida Baptist Convention.

Both churches Myers planted are now defunct.

An attorney in 2012 had previously stated the argument is invalid because there is an explicit statement in the convention's Annual that notes persons listed

are "solely for information purposes with no endorsement or approval implied or expressed."

After he was released from prison in December 2012, Myers was extradited to face charges in Maryland. He entered that state's equivalent of a no-contest plea to three counts of custodial child abuse and was sentenced in October in Calvert County, Md., to 45 years in prison with all but 15 years suspended, according to news reports.

Those offenses occurred in December 1997, April 1999, and March 2001.

The Florida convention completed criminal, traffic, and credit background checks as well as personal references on Myers, according to a previous Witness story. After the charges in Lake County surfaced, some persons in prior churches came forward saying they had concerns when Myers worked at their churches.

Analysis: The reason Hollywood unwittingly makes pro-life films

By Phil Boatwright
Correspondent

Have you noticed there are few if any movies concerning an unexpected pregnancy where planned abortion prevails? Why is that? Hollywood is basically pro-choice (interesting euphemism), so why the reluctance from Tinseltown to address unwanted pregnancy with a pro-abortion slant?

Well, structurally they can't.

Story-wise, a writer dare not portray his protagonist as someone who commits abortion. The character, no matter the reasoning, will always come across as selfish if she finalizes this procedure. Indeed, it could be considered the ultimate act of selfishness as abortion ultimately has to do with the wellbeing of the mother, not the unborn.

Now, when I lump all of Hollywood into a pro-abortion camp, I'm being somewhat bigoted. I must amend my attitude. Therefore, I write before you, corrected. Not all in the entertainment community are pro-abortion. Their films prove it.

Gimme Shelter (PG-13) opened in wide release on Jan. 24. From studio press notes, the movie concerns a pregnant teenager, Apple, who flees her abusive mother in search of her father, only to be rejected by her dad and forced to survive on the streets until a compassionate stranger offers a hopeful alternative.

While her parents are telling Apple to abort the baby, for some unknown reason, the young girl can't bring herself to do it.

In the 2012, movie, Stories We Tell, a filmmaker films a documentary about her eccentric family. At one point the writer/director is told that her mother had not only considered aborting her, but was en route to the clinic in order to proceed with the termination. Sud-

denly, she turned to her husband and said, "I can't do this."

Years later, the husband says to his movie-making daughter, "Amazing how close we were to you never existing. Almost enough to make you an anti-abortionist."

The realization that she had been a car drive away from not having been a part of her family's life haunts the production, perhaps negating any debate concerning a woman's rights over those of the unborn.

The same emotion hits us in the gut when we see Gimme Shelter's Apple holding her newborn, a little bundle full of hope and promise. Try to take her baby, and Apple would fight until she couldn't fight anymore.

Last year three releases — Gravity, Captain Phillips, and All is Lost — each significantly dealt with mankind's struggle to survive despite dismal odds. When you view a character battling to stay alive when the odds are overwhelmingly against survival, one must concede to the preciousness of life.

Not sure the filmmakers intended to make pro-life statements in these productions, but that's what they did.

Among others from years past, here are four more pro-life films that come to mind: Waitress, Juno, Bella, and March of the Penguins.

I am aware that too often we defenders of the unborn come across as unfeeling or unthinking regarding those who have chosen the procedure. It should be stated that if indeed abortion is a sin, it is one that can be forgiven. The woman who condemns herself for the deed need only ask for God's forgiveness. If she does, she will find it and one day she will be joyously reunited with her child.

Anyone who suggests otherwise is just a stone thrower — and you know what Jesus said about throwing stones.

Editor's note: In addition to writing for Baptist Press, Boatwright reviews films for previewonline.org. As the films mentioned above are not necessarily Christian movies, The Baptist Record strongly recommends visiting previewonline.org before viewing any of the films.

Spiritual Treasures

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...
For where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:20-21

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Just for the Record



Oleta and Allen Boler Sr., members of **NESHOBA CHURCH, UNION**, attended the discipleship training rally at New Bethel Church, Philadelphia; Fred Luter, speaker. Shown are Allen Boler, Luter, Oleta Boler, and Elizabeth Luter.



PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, LAUREL, celebrated the ground breaking for a covered pavilion-deck Jan. 19. Shown are Jean Cooley, Ulysses Cooley, Dale Bilbo, Nate Schumann, Judy Sellers, Kent Miller, Dave Morgan, Brayden Adrien, Anatolie Cibotarca, and Harry Pippen.



WEST RIPLEY CHURCH, RIPLEY, ordained two deacons Jan. 5. Shown are David Wooley, Mike Lindsey, and pastor Randy P. Latch.



The children and youth of **OLD SILVER CREEK CHURCH, SILVER CREEK**, presented Shepherds, Sheep, and a Savior Dec. 22.



The GAs of **ARLINGTON CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, raised over \$200 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. GA leaders are Lorrie Lofton and Paula Linton.



The children's ministry of **RAYMOND ROAD CHURCH, JACKSON**, sponsored a Latte for Lottie Coffee Shop in December. They raised \$387.84 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Cindy Sansing, minister to children.



FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, hosted IMB missionaries Richard and Martha Beal to speak and share regarding their ministry in Venezuela while promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Shown are the Beals, Amy Anderson, and pastor Jay Anderson.



The children of **JONES CHAPEL CHURCH, NETTLETON**, delivered teddy bears to Shearer-Richardson Memorial Nursing Home in Okolona Dec. 7. The children gave teddy bears and hugs to 70 residents of the home. Pastor Corey Hall blessed the teddy bears before the children handed them out.

High Hill Church, Philadelphia, is hosting a Youth Extravaganza on Jan. 31-Feb. 1, beginning each night at 6:30 p.m. Josh Smith, speaker. Hardy Street Church Praise Band will provide worship. Finger foods will be served each night. An announcement on page 12 of the Jan. 23 issue incorrectly listed the location of the event. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

In other Church News:

► **New Prospect Church, Oxford**, is hosting Robert Jeffress, pastor, First Church, Dallas, Tex., Feb. 16, 6 p.m. Randy Wood and praise team from First Church, Tupelo, will lead worship.

► **The Center for Pregnancy Choices, Laurel**, and area churches will be sponsoring a free youth event called Silver Ring Thing (SRT). The event is designed to challenge teenagers with the value of purity and abstaining from sex until marriage. It is Mar. 5 at Jones County Fine Arts Auditorium. Doors open 6:15 p.m., with a parent forum at 7 p.m.

► **Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa**, will host Gold City in concert Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Advance tickets, \$12; at the door, \$15. Call (228) 475-2938 for information.

► **Broadmoor Church, Madison**, is hosting a Valentine Banquet Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m., featuring Guy Hovis, star of Art Linkletter and Lawrence Welk TV shows. Tickets, \$15. Call Jan Gilbert at (601) 898-2345 to purchase tickets; deadline, Feb. 6.

Just for the Record



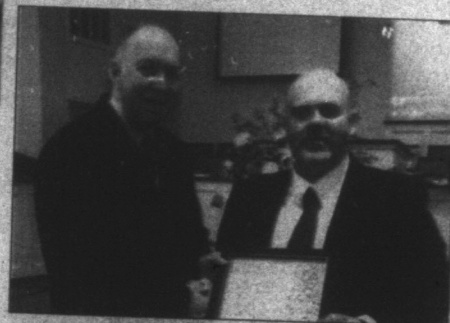
CENTER TERRACE CHURCH, CANTON, honored Margaret Johnson for seventeen years of service as organist with a reception. Shown are interim minister of music Marcus Peagler, Johnson, and pastor Brian Hill.



The children and youth of **MT. PISGAH CHURCH, CARROLLTON**, participated in the North Carrollton and Carrollton Christmas parade, with a float portraying the real meaning of Christmas, winning first place. Lanny Haley, pastor.



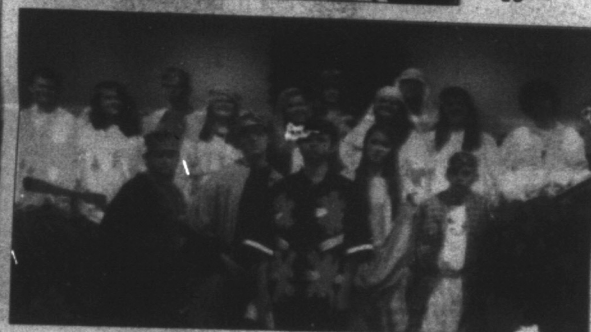
The GAs from **FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD**, made crosses and other craft items for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering at their church.



TRINITY CHURCH, ITAWAMBA ASSOCIATION, recently licensed Kevin Brown to the ministry of preaching. Shown are Brown and pastor Don Baggett.



The adult choir of **CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, presented the musical Breath of Heaven Dec. 12. Danny Creel, director; Hal Hatten, pastor.



The youth of **NESHOBA CHURCH, UNION**, presented a biblical drama, A Christmas to Believe In, on Dec. 8.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

College News



A prominent American physician and author, Benjamin Carson will be the keynote speaker at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S** spring scholarship dinner on April 22. The annual event on the Clinton campus opened doors for outstanding students to receive an education at the Baptist-affiliated university. Other noteworthy speakers in the MC series have included former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in 2013 and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2012. Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. dinner at Anderson Hall are \$200.

Carson is also expected to address Mississippi College students and meet with the news media before delivering his speech to hundreds of MC supporters. For more information on the Mississippi College 2014 Scholarship Dinner, contact Amy Rowan of the university's Office of Advancement at (601) 925.9257 or Rowan@mc.edu.

HOUSING

cont. from p. 1

intends to file a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the government's position that the minister housing allowance is constitutional.

Ministers should consult with the annual tax guide made available at GuideStone.org/

taxguide, and GuideStone's housing allowance information at GuideStone.org/housingallowance, to ensure they are properly documenting housing allowance as part of a church business action and reporting it appropriately on their income tax returns.

The housing allowance case is only one example of GuideStone's advocacy efforts on

behalf of the pastors, churches, and ministries it serves. In 2013, GuideStone filed litigation to block enforcement of the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate against non-exempt ministry organizations served by GuideStone. GuideStone and nearly 200 ministry organizations received a preliminary injunction in December, pro-

tecting them from the contraceptive mandate.

No trial date has been set in that case.

"We live in a world that is not as receptive to the ministry of the church or of ministers in general as the world in which we grew up," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said. "Rather than discouraging us, that fact serves to

encourage our employees to continue to seek out opportunities to advocate on behalf of our more than 200,000 participants across this country."

Crabb is also noted for her 2010 ruling that the National Day of Prayer violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment. That decision was overturned by the Seventh Circuit in 2011.

ABEDINI

cont. from p. 1

was "very concerned about his internal injuries," recommended surgery.

In conjunction with his transfer to the political ward, the pastor was given pain medication for the injuries he endured from beatings at Evin Prison, but he still has not received the medicine prescribed earlier for his condition.

Sekulow said Abedini's family in Iran has formally petitioned the Iranian government to allow him to receive the necessary surgery.

In another development, ACLJ reports on its web site that Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was asked about Abedini during a recent interview on CNN. Zarif responded by explaining the clemency process but added, "That is something for the judiciary to decide."

"We are asking hundreds of thousands of Americans to stand with us and to call on Iran to grant Pastor Saeed clemency and allow him to return home to America," the ACLJ web site stated, adding that a petition to that effect can be found at [http://](http://aclj.org/iran/clemency-for-pastor-saeed)

aclj.org/iran/clemency-for-pastor-saeed.

More than 67,000 people have signed a petition asking Congress to impose tighter sanctions on Iran until Abedini is released. That petition can be found at beheardproject.com/saeed.

Naghmeh Abedini, the pastor's wife who lives in Idaho with the couple's two young children, said she received a small bit of comfort in knowing her husband had been transferred out of the murderer ward, "but my heart aches to know the pain he continually suffers and that his injuries necessitate surgery."

"As a family, it is difficult to be so far away and unable to comfort him in his pain," Abedini said through the ACLJ. "Though we are encouraged by the transfer to the new ward, such a small step is far from an unconditional release where Saeed is reunited with our family. While this development is welcomed, we desperately await his return home."

Sekulow warned that while the political prisoner ward should be safer for Abedini than the murderer ward, authorities have placed two violent criminals in the political ward who "consistently threaten any semblance of peace."

Also, Sekulow learned that the prison closed recreational facilities and the library that had been available to political prisoners.

The ACLJ, which represents Naghmeh Abedini and has persisted in efforts to free her husband for well over a year, continues to work with world leaders and urge the U.S. government to make releasing Abedini a priority.

Naghmeh Abedini is scheduled as a keynote speaker for the sixth annual Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy Feb. 25, ahead of the annual session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

She continues to speak in various venues on behalf of the persecuted church and her husband in particular.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

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PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR SEARCH. Send resumes to: Calvary Baptist Church Attn: Youth Committee P.O. Box 86 Fulton, MS 38843

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MENDENHALL, MS, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Robert Mangum, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 115 Pinehill Circle, Mendenhall, MS 39114.

GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resumes to rodrakes@bellsouth.net or via mail to Personnel Committee c/o Craig Dukes, 2209 Woodland Place, Florence, MS 39073.

Our King: Condemned! • John 18:33-19:3,9-11

Last week we studied the illegal trial that the Jewish religious leaders put Jesus through. Now this week, we will see the mockery of justice that the Roman Governor, Pilate, participated in. Pilate was the cowardly, politically motivated, Roman Procurator of Judea 26-36 A.D. Therefore, he was Governor during Jesus' earthly ministry, trials, death, and resurrection. He was recalled as Procurator by Tiberius, and then banished by Caligula to Vienna in Gaul, where he died in disgrace about 5 years later.

After you reread John 18:28-19:16 you can find a summary of Pilate's embarrassing involvement in this sermon by Peter, "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses," Acts 3:13-15 (KJV).

Reality and history are not on the High Priest or Pilate's side. "And being found in fashion as a man, he (Jesus) humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is

above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philipians 2:8-11 (KJV).

John consistently and clearly maintains Christ's total control of the circumstances: "Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it

were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin," John 19:11 (KJV).

There is a great spiritual battle going on here with the Devil, that old serpent Satan, putting forth his greatest effort. Satan won his battle in Judas Iscariot's life when Judas betrayed Jesus and then committed suicide.

Satan looked strong when the High Priest and other Jewish religious leaders held their illegal, greatly prejudiced night trials. Satan intimidated the Roman Governor to ignore his true rul-

ing that Jesus was innocent. The High Priest asks for His execution by crucifixion as Jesus had already told the Disciples would happen.

But we must not miss John's strong teaching that Jesus is always in charge and evil is always losing as God's eternal plan is being carefully executed to provide salvation. Remember Jesus waiting for the Roman Soldiers and Temple Policemen to get back up on their feet after they fell down in fear (John 18:4-8) when He voluntarily identified Himself in the garden.

Look at the desperate extremes the Chief Priests go to as they force Pilate to succumb to their illicit demands. When Pilate came out to them because they felt too good to go into his court room, they would not make an accusation of any crime. Instead, even though they wanted the death penalty, they would only say: "If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee," John 18:30 (KJV) These Jewish leaders were

willing to go as far as asking Pilate to protect Caesar from another person's supposed claim to be a king. They cried out: "Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar," John 19:15 (KJV).

Do you really understand what just happened here? God's High Priest saying, "We have no king but Caesar." The Devil had a great victory in the High Priest's blasphemous outburst. Pilate crumbles in fear under the pressure and allows the crucifixion for the false crime of violent revolution against Rome. See the posting of the legal proclamation in John 19:19.

Jesus explains this victory and His kingdom to us when he answers Pilate: "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered..."

"Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice," John 18:36-37 (KJV).

Hicks is a member of Brandon Church, Brandon.



Explore the Bible
with Don Hicks

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Look at the desperate extremes the Chief Priests go to as they force Pilate to succumb to their illicit demands. When Pilate came out to them because they felt too good to go into his court room, they would not make an accusation of any crime. Instead, even though they wanted the death penalty, they would only say: "If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee," John 18:30 (KJV) These Jewish leaders were

What About People Who've Never Heard About Jesus? • Romans 1:16-25

The human race began with God, the Creator, creating and blessing Adam and Eve with His knowledge, presence and provision. They knew God, but they turned from the truth and embraced a lie, thus rejecting Him. For the human race, it was the onset of a downward spiral that has continued its deadly course as mankind has attempted to suppress the truth. "Every truth revealed to man by God has been fought against, disregarded, and deliberately obscured" (David Guzik). Because of this, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. More than all the perils combined facing our society, there is no greater peril facing the human race than the wrath of God. The wrath of God is not like human anger that comes from self and its emotions, but the wrath of God is righteous just as He is. Andrew Murray said, "Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is the contradiction of His holiness."

Paul declared in Romans 1 that mankind was without excuse in not believing in God. Paul pointed out that in creation God's eternal power and Godhead could be seen, proof of God's wisdom to plan for creation and the power to speak it into existence. Even when men realized

who God was, they didn't glorify Him as God, neither were they thankful to Him. In response to God's revelation through creation, man hardened his heart against God. He did not want to know or acknowledge God or be held accountable by Him. Man freely used and enjoyed the gifts of God's creation, yet did so with an ungrateful heart, ignoring the God who graciously provided the gifts.

Charles Spurgeon said, "I cannot say anything much worse of a man than that he is not thankful to those who have been his benefactors; and when you say that he is not thankful to God, you have said about the worst thing you can say of him. But when you glorify God as God, and are thankful for everything—when you can take up a bit of bread and a cup of cold water, and say with the poor Puritan, 'What, all this, and Christ too?'—then are you happy, and you make others happy."

Paul said that the world, when they rejected God, became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Wiersbie said that man, the worshipper, became man the philosopher, but his empty wisdom only revealed his foolishness. Seeking something to worship instead of God, man exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for cheap imitations—images made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and to four foot-

ed beasts, and creeping things. Then mankind stooped further into immorality by using their bodies in ways they were not created to be used, thus dishonoring their Creator even more. Paul declared that God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.

"We reach the climax of man's battle with God's truth when man exchanges the truth of God for 'the lie' and aban-

dons truth completely. 'The lie' is that man is his own god, and he should worship and serve himself and not the Creator" (Wiersbie). It's the same lie that Satan used in the Garden of Eden to lead Eve astray.

Since God has sent His Son into the world to be the sacrifice for our sins, we can know the truth and His name is Jesus. His path was one of suffering and rejection. Men who professed to know God had him crucified, yet He triumphed over sin and death and rose again, all because of love for sinful humanity. The apostle Paul was a grateful recipient of that love. He knew the transforming power of the Gospel and wasn't ashamed of it. He lived to share it with others. So should we. Not everyone has heard the Good News of Jesus. We as Christ's ambassadors, representing His kingdom, should be alert for every opportunity God gives us for sharing Him with others. Paul wrote in Romans 10:14 (NLT) "But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"

Foster is a member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

Bible Studies for Life with Patsy Foster



they were not created to be used, thus dishonoring their Creator even more. Paul declared that God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.

"We reach the climax of man's battle with God's truth when man exchanges the truth of God for 'the lie' and aban-

Helms served from 2000-10 as the Southern Baptist Convention prayer coordinator for the North American Mission Board. She is the author of Prayer 101, What Every Intercessor Needs to Know. All Scripture quotations are NASB, unless otherwise noted. Courtesy of Baptist Press.

HELMS

cont. from p.2

■ **Glorify God alone.** Pride is an easy trap to fall into when people notice that God has answered our prayer, but "pride goeth before... a fall" (Proverbs 16:18 KJV). We will be wise and obedient if we

deflect that glory and praise back to God. He is the One who initiates prayer, empowers and equips us to pray, and answers our prayers.

God warns us in Isaiah 42:8, "I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another." Jesus also teaches us in the Sermon on

the Mount in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."

In agreement with the preceding essentials, the attitude of our heart is important to

God. 1 Samuel 16:7 reminds us "God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

When our heart is pure and our desire is to bring glory to God alone, our prayers will be effective and will truly accomplish much.



HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES

Each January, The Baptist Children's Village evaluates the cash gifts received from churches during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation, it has become customary to publish the top Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of designated cash gifts. This does not include non-cash gift items or volunteer efforts that many churches contribute. This analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27

Clinton, MS 38600-0027

(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

RANK	CHURCH NAME	CITY	ASSOCIATION	2013 GIFTS
1	Bunker Hill Baptist Church	Columbia	Marion	
2	Morrison Heights Baptist Church	Clinton	Metro	\$31,534.95
3	FBC Water Valley	Water Valley	Yalabousha	\$30,147.41
4	FBC Richton	Richton	Perry	\$22,925.00
5	Seminary Baptist Church	Seminary	Covington-Jeff Davis	\$22,499.40
6	Fellowship Baptist Church	Meridian	Lauderdale	\$18,549.49
7	Brandon Baptist Church	Brandon	Rankin	\$15,789.21
8	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mendenhall	Simpson	\$15,393.00
9	Memorial Baptist Church	FBC Crystal Springs	Richman	\$14,397.40
10	FBC Crystal Springs	Crystal Springs	Copiah	\$13,381.40
11	Pine Forest Baptist Church	Collinsville	Lauderdale	\$13,067.05
12	FBC Kosciusko	Kosciusko	Attala	\$13,046.31
13	FBC Corinth	Corinth	Alcorn	\$12,935.76
14	FBC Vicksburg	Vicksburg	Warren	\$12,897.60
15	Topkew Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	Lincoln	\$12,381.41
16	FBC Batesville	Batesville	Polk Co	\$12,350.00
17	FBC Jackson	Jackson	Metro	\$11,950.00
18	Trinity Baptist Church	Waynesboro	Wayne	\$11,622.27
19	Gaston Baptist Church	Wayne	Prentiss	\$11,467.58
20	Williamsville Baptist Church	Kosciusko	Prentiss	\$10,109.57
21	Topkew Baptist Church	Jayess	Lawrence	\$9,999.96
22	FBC Clinton	Clinton	Metro	\$9,888.07
23	East Philadelphia Baptist Church	Philadelphia	Neshoba	\$9,240.02
24	FBC Runtelown	Petal	Perry	\$8,841.73
25	FBC Raymond	Raymond	Metro	\$8,591.63
26	Rienzi Baptist Church	Rienzi	Alcorn	\$8,340.00
27	FBC Nettleton	Nettleton	Lee	\$8,120.73
28	FBC Seed Hill	Richman	George-Greene	\$8,093.00
29	Rolling Creek Baptist Church	Quitman	Clarke	\$8,071.93
30	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Valley Park	Neshoba	\$7,847.29
31	Valley Park Baptist Church	Valley Park	Sharkey-Isaquena	\$7,819.42
32	FBC Booneville	Booneville	Prentiss	\$7,654.67
33	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church	Sandy Hook	Marion	\$7,378.04
34	FBC Lambert	Lambert	North Delta	\$7,281.52
35	Sylvarena Baptist Church	Raleigh	Smith Co	\$7,276.64
36	FBC Liberty	Liberty	Mississippi	\$7,242.88
37	FBC Lyman	Gulfton	Gulf Coast	\$7,242.66
38	FBC Brookhaven	Brookhaven	Copiah	\$7,061.07
39	FBC Hazlehurst	Hazlehurst	Winston	\$7,034.88
40	Murphy Creek Baptist Church	Louisville	Newton	\$7,003.00
41	FBC Newton	Newton	Laurel	\$7,000.00
42	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Laurel	Jones	\$6,974.95
43	FBC Tupelo	Tupelo	Lee	\$6,960.29
44	FBC Laurel	Laurel	Jones	\$6,933.24
45	FBC Abbeville	Abbeville	Lafayette	\$6,881.60
46	Trinity Baptist Church	Vicksburg	Warren	\$6,709.94
47	Vaiden Baptist Church	Vaiden	Carroll	\$6,603.51
48	FBC Natchez	Natchez	Adams	\$6,421.13
49	FBC Brandon	Brandon	Rankin	\$6,400.00
50	Thrasher Baptist Church	Booneville	Prentiss	\$6,376.96
51	Immanuel Baptist Church	Vicksburg	Warren	\$6,287.56
52	Springfield Baptist Church	Morton	Scott	\$6,095.00
53	Parkey Baptist Church	Clinton	Metro	\$6,005.00
54	Bovina Baptist Church	Vicksburg	Warren	\$6,000.00
55	FBC Picaune	Picaune	Pearl River	\$5,800.00
56	Branch Baptist Church	Morton	Scott	\$5,635.00
57	FBC Magee	Magee	Simpson	\$5,602.60
58	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Carthage	Leake	\$5,598.50
59	FBC Senatobia	Senatobia	X-Tended Mission Network	\$5,571.93
60	Rock Hill Baptist Church	Brandon	Rankin	\$5,475.00
61	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church	Silver Creek	Lawrence	\$5,448.90
62	Calvary Baptist Church	Tupelo	Lee	\$5,413.10
63	Broadmoor Baptist Church	Madison	Metro	\$5,390.94
64	Calvary Baptist Church	Kosciusko	Attala	\$5,381.00
65	Holladay Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	Lincoln	\$5,337.89
66	Meadow Grove Baptist Church	Holladay	Washington Co	\$5,321.70
67	Anchor Baptist Church	Brandon	Rankin	\$5,257.11
68	FBC Yazoo City	Water Valley	Lafayette	\$5,241.00
69	Valley Grove Baptist Church	Yazoo City	Yazoo	\$5,213.90
70	Ingram Baptist Church	Tupelo	Portotoc Co	\$5,210.00
71	FBC Quitman	New Albany	Union Co	\$5,187.92
72	FBC Greenville	Quitman	Clarke	\$5,179.54
73	Fairview Baptist Church	Greenville	Mid-Delta	\$5,125.00
74	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Columbus	Golden Triangle	\$5,117.93
75	Crossview Baptist Church	Brookhaven	Lincoln	\$5,050.00
76	West Kemper Baptist Church	Brandon	Rankin	\$5,037.48
77	North Winona Baptist Church	Laurel	Kemper	\$5,025.00
78	Dublin Baptist Church	Foxworth	Marion	\$5,000.00
79	Clarke Venable Baptist Church	Winona	Montgomery	\$4,858.00
80	Stanton Baptist Church	Carson	Covington-Jeff Davis	\$4,853.85
81	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Decatur	Newton	\$4,799.91
82	FBC Sardis	Natchez	Adams	\$4,731.41
83	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Mendenhall	Simpson	\$4,688.91
84	Liberty Baptist Church	Sardis	Polk Co	\$4,647.00
85	Church Road Baptist Church	Bruce	Calhoun	\$4,643.98
86	Mount Zion Baptist Church-Tate	Waynesboro	Wayne	\$4,614.25
87	Church Road Baptist Church	Independence	X-Tended Mission Network	\$4,600.00
88	North Greenwood Baptist Church	Horn Lake	X-Tended Mission Network	\$4,583.34
89	Co Line Baptist Church	Greenwood	Union	\$4,536.00
90	High Hill Baptist Church	Union	Mid-Delta	\$4,531.98
91	Union Baptist Church	Philadelpia	Neshoba	\$4,507.99
92	Faith Baptist Church	Meridian	Clarke	\$4,505.81
93	Mantee Baptist Church	Meridian	Lauderdale	\$4,476.03
94	Rocky Point Baptist Church	Mantee	Webster	\$4,470.25
95	Eastwood Baptist Church	Carthage	Leake	\$4,440.00
96	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church	Indianola	Mid-Delta	\$4,430.00
97	New Hope Baptist Church	Philadelpia	Neshoba	\$4,409.66
98		Meridian	Lauderdale	\$4,400.00
				\$4,375.00

99	Westwood Baptist Church	Meridian	Lauderdale	\$4,301.52
100	FBC Louisville	Louisville	Winston	\$4,300.00
101	Grays Creek Baptist Church	Hernando	X-Tended Mission Network	\$4,272.49
102	Bel Aire Baptist Church	Gulfton	Gulf Coast	\$4,260.94
103	Hurley Baptist Church	Hurley	Humphreys	\$4,237.83
104	FBC Belzoni	Belzoni	Sharkey-Isaquena	\$4,234.76
105	Deer Creek Baptist Church	Rolling Fork	Chickasaw	\$4,203.77
106	Parkway Baptist Church	Houston	Noxubee	\$4,122.01
107	Brooksville Baptist Church	Brooksville	Pike	\$4,120.77
108	Silver Springs Baptist Church	Oakley	Scott	\$4,100.00
109	Forest Baptist Church	Forest	Golden Triangle	\$4,087.50
110	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Columbus	Golden Triangle	\$4,073.77
111	FBC Starkville	Starkville	Warren	\$4,070.00
112	Highland Baptist Church	Vicksburg	Winston	\$4,000.00
113	Shiloh Baptist Church	Louisville	Marion	\$3,982.21
114	Holly Springs Baptist Church	Foxworth	Clarke	\$3,867.45
115	Bucatan Baptist Church	Calhoun City	Golden Triangle	\$3,830.01
116	Bethany Baptist Church	Columbus	Metro	\$3,772.08
117	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Raymond	Lauderdale	\$3,755.60
118	Salem Baptist Church	Meridian	At-Large	\$3,740.77
119	Northwest Baptist Church	Harrisville	Union Co	\$3,722.25
120	Unity Baptist Church	New Albany	Clarke	\$3,711.36
121	FBC New Albany	Shubuta	Webster	\$3,705.28
122	DeSoto Baptist Church	Eupora	Metro	\$3,650.00
123	FBC Eupora	Jackson	Metro	\$3,647.79
124	Midway Baptist Church	Clinton	Winston	\$3,619.00
125	Wildwood Baptist Church	Magee	Union Co	\$3,600.00
126	Corinth Baptist Church	Louisville	Leake	\$3,600.00
127	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church	New Albany	Lauderdale	\$3,570.00
128	Liberty Baptist Church	Carthage	Kemper	\$3,567.00
129	Fredonia Baptist Church	Meridian	North Central	\$3,552.12
130	Remus Baptist Church	De Kalb	Lincoln	\$3,522.31
131	Liberty Baptist Church	Charleston	Union Co	\$3,488.16
132	FBC Charleston	Brookhaven	Franklin	\$3,482.00
133	New Sight Baptist Church	Blue Springs	Perry	\$3,482.00
134	Zion Hill Baptist Church	Meadville	Port Gibson	\$3,482.00
135	Meaville Baptist Church	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$3,455.00
136	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Shiloh Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$3,400.00
137	Shiloh Baptist Church	Kolola Springs Baptist Church	Lawrence	\$3,377.74
138	Kolola Springs Baptist Church	Arm Baptist Church	Union Co	\$3,345.77
139	Arm Baptist Church	New Harmony Baptist Church	Jones	\$3,306.89
140	New Harmony Baptist Church	Pineview Baptist Church	Covington-Jeff	\$3,296.10
141	Pineview Baptist Church	Ebenezer Baptist Church	Pearl River	\$3,284.87
142	Ebenezer Baptist Church	Central Baptist Church	Long Beach	\$3,250.94
143	Central Baptist Church	FBC Union	Newton	\$3,208.33
144	FBC Union	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Byram	\$3,200.00
145	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Fellowship Baptist Church	Hernando	\$3,186.19
146	Fellowship Baptist Church	FBC Collinsville	Collinsville	\$3,155.78
147	FBC Collinsville	Smithville Baptist Church	Smithville	\$3,118.00
148	Smithville Baptist Church	Phaith Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$3,100.04
149	Phaith Baptist Church	Calvary Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$3,033.00
150	Calvary Baptist Church	FBC Ocean Springs	Ocean Springs	\$3,000.00
151	FBC Ocean Springs	Beacon Street Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$3,000.00
152	Beacon Street Baptist Church	Ephesus Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$3,000.00
153	Ephesus Baptist Church	Carrollton Baptist Church	Corinth	\$2,996.14
154	Carrollton Baptist Church	Holly Baptist Church	McComb	\$2,988.86
155	Holly Baptist Church	Silver Creek Baptist Church	Chunky	\$2,988.37
156	Silver Creek Baptist Church	Chunky Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,985.00
157	Chunky Baptist Church	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church	Walnut	\$2,971.00
158	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church	Harmony Baptist Church	Smithdale	\$2,938.89
159	Harmony Baptist Church	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$2,919.55
160	Mount Olive Baptist Church	New Zion Baptist Church	Newhebron	\$2,918.91
161	New Zion Baptist Church	Newhebron Baptist Church	Picaune	\$2,895.35
162	Newhebron Baptist Church	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Batesville	\$2,861.28
163	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Calvary Baptist Church	State Line	\$2,850.00
164	Calvary Baptist Church	FBC State Line	Bogue Chitto	\$2,840.62
165	FBC State Line	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Oak Vale	\$2,839.75
166	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Oakvale Baptist Church	Crowder	\$2,833.61
167	Oakvale Baptist Church	Crowder Baptist Church	Tchula	\$2,817.66
168	Crowder Baptist Church	Horseshoe Baptist Church	Tutwiler	\$2,796.00
169	Horseshoe Baptist Church	Friendship West Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,781.53
170	Friendship West Baptist Church	FBC Waynesboro	Shannon	\$2,780.00
171	FBC Waynesboro	Brewer Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$2,778.80
172	Brewer Baptist Church	Macedonia Baptist Church	Lee	\$2,776.52
173	Macedonia Baptist Church	Goodwater Baptist Church	West Point	\$2,758.05
174	Goodwater Baptist Church	West End Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$2,754.89
175	West End Baptist Church	FBC Coldwater	Picaune	\$2,742.49
176	FBC Coldwater	Union Baptist Church	Indianola	\$2,742.00
177	Union Baptist Church	Beulah Baptist Church	Humphreys	\$2,732.06
178	Beulah Baptist Church	FBC Indianola	Mid-Delta	\$2,730.76
179	FBC Indianola	New Bethel Baptist Church	Ruleville	\$2,711.25
180	New Bethel Baptist Church	Ruleville Baptist Church	McCool	\$2,685.93
181	Ruleville Baptist Church	Berea Baptist Church	D Lo	\$2,673.27
182	Berea Baptist Church	D'Lo Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,634.72
183	D'Lo Baptist Church	Chaparral Baptist Church	Quitman	\$2,614.39
184	Chaparral Baptist Church	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,596.80
185	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Bethel Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,568.40
186	Bethel Baptist Church	Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$2,557.82
187	Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church	Harmony Baptist Church	Gulfton	\$2,547.78
188	Harmony Baptist Church	Calvary Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$2,525.00
189	Calvary Baptist Church	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Baldwyn	\$2,522.00
190	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$2,503.42
191	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Casey Creek Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$2,501.23
192	Casey Creek Baptist Church	Tylertown Baptist Church	Philadelpia	\$2,500.00
193	Tylertown Baptist Church	Bethsaida Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,488.73
194	Bethsaida Baptist Church	Oak Forest Baptist Church	Rankin	\$2,488.00
195	Oak Forest Baptist Church	Star Baptist Church	Lebanon	\$2,483.00
196	Star Baptist Church	Main Street Baptist Church	Alcorn	\$2,479.26
197	Main Street Baptist Church	Oakland Baptist Church	Ita Bena	\$2,454.46
198	Oakland Baptist Church	Chesapeake Baptist Church	Mathison	\$2,436.00
199	Chesapeake Baptist Church	FBC Ita Bena	Carrollton	\$2,425.00
200	FBC Ita Bena	FBC Mathison	Terry	\$2,412.50
201	FBC Mathison	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,400.00
202	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	Oak View Baptist Church	Ackerman	\$2,400.00
203	Oak View Baptist Church	Evergreen Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,400.00
204	Evergreen Baptist Church	Ackerman Baptist Church	Macon	\$2,389.90
205	Ackerman Baptist Church	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Skene	\$2,375.00
206	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Elon Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$2,356.13
207	Elon Baptist Church	Skene Baptist Church	Booneville	\$2,355.00
208	Skene Baptist Church	West Shady Grove Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,345.77
209	West Shady Grove Baptist Church	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Attala	\$2,337.52
210	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Salts Baptist Church	Pearl River	\$2,333.00
211	Salts Baptist Church	Crane Creek Baptist Church	Gulfton	\$2,318.23
212	Crane Creek Baptist Church	Tomnolen Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,311.27
213	Tomnolen Baptist Church	New Hope Baptist Church	Jasper	\$2,300.00
214	New Hope Baptist Church	Whitesand Baptist Church	Washington Co	\$2,277.22
215	Whitesand Baptist Church	Fellowship Baptist Church	Lincoln	\$2,274.00
216	Fellowship Baptist Church	Parkview Baptist Church	Terry	\$2,258.26
217	Parkview Baptist Church	Macedonia Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$2,243.00
218	Macedonia Baptist Church	FBC Terry	Lena	\$2,225.00
219	FBC Terry	New Hope Baptist Church	Walnut Grove	\$2,201.68
220	New Hope Baptist Church	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Ripley	\$2,199.96
221	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Standing Pine Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$2,180.12
222	Standing Pine Baptist Church	FBC Ripley	Bogue Chitto	\$2,180.00
223	FBC Ripley	Elland Baptist Church	Summit	\$2,177.00
224	Elland Baptist Church	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,160.12
225	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	Arlington Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$2,150.57
226	Arlington Baptist Church	Moak's Creek Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$2,125.00
227	Moak's Creek Baptist Church	Cairo Baptist Church	Isola	\$2,116.15
228	Cairo Baptist Church	FBC Mendenhall		\$2,111.07
229	FBC Mendenhall	Faith Baptist Church		
230	Faith Baptist Church	Isola Baptist Church		

235	Arkabutla Baptist Church	Arkabutla	X-Tended Mission Network	\$2,109.16	371	Salem Baptist Church	Potts Camp	Marshall
236	Prentiss Baptist Church	Prentiss	Covington-Jeff Davis	\$2,106.00	372	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church	Sturgis	Golden Triangle
237	Dixie Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	Lebanon	\$2,102.00	373	Enon Baptist Church	Jayess	Walshall
238	Gatesville Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	Copiah	\$2,101.51	374	Pulaski Baptist Church	Pulaski	Scott
239	FBC Columbia	Columbia	Marion	\$2,100.00	375	Siloam Baptist Church	Meashville	Franklin
240	Union Baptist Church	Roxie	Franklin	\$2,100.00	376	Temple Baptist Church	Walnut	Union Co
241	FBC Collins	Collins	Covington-Jeff Davis	\$2,098.00	377	McCool Baptist Church	McCool	Benton-Tippah
242	Alta Woods Baptist Church	Jackson	Simpson	\$2,097.00	378	New Palestine Baptist Church	Picayune	Pearl River
243	Beulah Baptist Church	Magee	Union Co	\$2,085.71	379	Phoebe Baptist Church	Phoebe	Golden Triangle
244	Union Baptist Church	Sardis	Calhoun	\$2,085.00	380	FBC Marion	Marion	Lauderdale
245	Pleasant Dale Baptist Church	Big Creek	Union Co	\$2,083.34	381	Plainway Baptist Church	Coffeeville	Yalobusha
246	Shiloh Baptist Church	Myrtle	North Central	\$2,079.43	382	Flat Top Unity Baptist Church	Picayune	Janes
247	Macedonia Baptist Church	Columbia	Union Co	\$2,077.00	383	Cary Baptist Church	Cary	Pearl River
248	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Holcomb	Marion	\$2,069.72	384	FBC Greenwood	Greenwood	Sharkey-Isaquesna
249	Holcomb Baptist Church	Buckatunna	Wayne	\$2,067.46	385	FBC Bude	Bude	Mid-Delta
250	FBC Buckatunna	Amory	Monroe	\$2,053.00	386	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Tylertown	Franklin
251	FBC Amory	Madison	Metro	\$2,050.00	387	French Camp Baptist Church	French Camp	Pike
252	Twin Lakes Baptist Church	Etta	Pike	\$2,049.67	388	Fair River Baptist Church	Brookhaven	Choctaw
253	Navilla Baptist Church	Callman	Union Co	\$2,005.94	389	Galilee FBC	Galilee	Lincoln
254	Bethel Baptist Church	Booneville	Copiah	\$2,004.00	390	Scotland Baptist Church	Scotland	Mississippi
255	Callman Baptist Church	Louisville	Prentiss	\$2,000.00	391	New Providence Baptist Church	Sumner	Montgomery
256	Tusculum Baptist Church	Yazoo City	Yazoo	\$2,000.00	392	Sturges Baptist Church	Sturges	Copiah
257	South Louisville Baptist Church	Houston	Chickasaw	\$2,000.00	393	Courtland Baptist Church	Courtland	Leake
258	Short Creek Baptist Church	Taylorville	Smith Co	\$1,995.00	394	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Mount Vernon	Marshall
259	Arbor Grove Baptist Church	Corinth	Alcorn	\$1,981.31	395	Longview Heights Baptist Church	Longview	Calhoun
260	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Flora	Metro	\$1,978.10	396	Macedonia Baptist Church	Macedonia	Covington-Jeff Davis
261	Tate Baptist Church	Anguilla	Sharkey-Isaquesna	\$1,967.58	397	Eastside Baptist Church	Eastside	Lincoln
262	FBC Flora	Walnut	Alcorn	\$1,965.00	398	Banner Baptist Church	Banner	Lebanon
263	Straight Bayou Baptist Church	Sturgis	Colden Triangle	\$1,952.40	399	Hathorn Baptist Church	Hathorn	Lauderdale
264	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Summit	Pike	\$1,950.00	400	Bethany Baptist Church	Bethany	Franklin
265	Sturgis Baptist Church	Corinth	Alcorn	\$1,947.82	401	FBC Pittsboro	Pittsboro	Calhoun
266	Calvary Baptist Church	Summit	X-Tended Mission Network	\$1,945.68	402	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Mount Vernon	Lee
267	Calvary Baptist Church	Corinth	Lafayette	\$1,943.00	403	New Prospect Baptist Church	New Prospect	Lincoln
268	Wyatt Baptist Church	Corinth	Golden Triangle	\$1,900.00	404	Providence Baptist Church	Providence	Lebanon
269	Union West Baptist Church	Lamar	Pearl River	\$1,900.00	405	Mount Gilead Baptist Church	Mount Gilead	Lauderdale
270	Rome Baptist Church	Poplarville	Overt	\$1,900.00	406	Roxie Baptist Church	Roxie	Covington-Jeff Davis
271	Friendship Baptist Church	Philadelpia	Gautier	\$1,894.00	407	Furns Baptist Church	Furns	Calhoun
272	Shiloh Baptist Church	Ellisville	Neshoba	\$1,892.85	408	FBC Boyle	Boyle	Pontotoc Co
273	FBC Poplarville	Ellisville	Jackson	\$1,889.16	409	New Hope Baptist Church	New Hope	Mid-Delta
274	Co Line Baptist Church	Trinity Baptist Church	Union Co	\$1,887.00	410	Leaf River Baptist Church	Leaf River	Covington-Jeff Davis
275	Trinity Baptist Church	FBC Lumberton	Smith Co	\$1,881.79	411	Antioch Baptist Church	Antioch	Smith Co
276	FBC Lumberton	Lumberton	Lamar	\$1,876.29	412	Bethany Baptist Church	Bethany	George-Greene
277	Cartersville Baptist Church	Petal	Pike	\$1,875.00	413	Siloam Baptist Church	Siloam	Covington-Jeff Davis
278	FBC Magnolia	Magnolia	X-Tended Mission Network	\$1,871.36	414	Kennedy Springs Baptist Church	Kennedy Springs	Simpson
279	Carriage Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	Alcorn	\$1,850.00	415	Ludlow Baptist Church	Ludlow	Scott
280	Cumberland Baptist Church	Osborne	Lafayette	\$1,830.00	416	Big Level Baptist Church	Big Level	Marshall
281	North Oxford Baptist Church	Oxford	Webster	\$1,829.00	417	FBC Wiggins	Wiggins	Gulf Coast
282	Walshall Baptist Church	Walshall	Webster	\$1,826.00	418	Calvary Baptist Church	Calvary	Gulf Coast
283	Hillsboro Baptist Church	Hillsboro	Pontotoc Co	\$1,824.00	419	Holly Springs	Holly Springs	Marshall
284	Ecru Baptist Church	Ecru	Biloxi	\$1,820.00	420			
285	Woolmarket Baptist Church	Ecru	Panola Co	\$1,820.00	421	Clear Springs Baptist Church	Clear Springs	Montgomery
286	Enid Lake Baptist Church	Pope	Simpson	\$1,806.00	422	Phillips Baptist Church	Phillips	Smith Co
287	New Hope Baptist Church	Magee	Webster	\$1,805.00	423	Broadway Baptist Church	Broadway	North Central
288	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Eupora	Webster	\$1,800.00	424	Calvary Baptist Church	Calvary	X-Tended Mission Network
289	Lexie Baptist Church	FBC Cleveland	Walshall	\$1,800.00	425	Parkway Baptist Church	Parkway	Clarke
290	FBC Cleveland	Shugulak	Mid-Delta	\$1,794.59	426	Good Hope Baptist Church	Good Hope	X-Tended Mission Network
291	Shugulak Baptist Church	Shugulak	Neshoba	\$1,794.00	427	Liberty Baptist Church	Liberty	Perry
292	FBC Oxford	Oxford	Lafayette	\$1,791.00	428	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Mount Pleasant	West
293	FBC Taylorville	Taylorville	Smith Co	\$1,790.00	429	Autumn Ridge Baptist Church	Autumn Ridge	Hattiesburg
294	Lowery Creek Baptist Church	Seminary	Jones	\$1,770.00	430	Co Line Baptist Church	Co Line	Crystal Springs
295	New Salem Baptist Church	Columbus	Golden Triangle	\$1,770.00	431	Hebron Baptist Church	Hebron	Benton
296	Corinth Baptist Church	Raleigh	Smith Co	\$1,751.00	432	Immanuel Baptist Church	Immanuel	Copiah
297	Tuscola Baptist Church	Lena	Gulf Coast	\$1,750.00	433	Bethel Baptist Church	Bethel	Yazoo
298	FBC Bay St. Louis	Bay St. Louis	Webster	\$1,750.00	434	Hephzibah Baptist Church	Hephzibah	Pike
299	Montezuma Baptist Church	Eupora	Benton-Tippah	\$1,750.00	435	Melrose Baptist Church	Melrose	Mississippi
300	West Ripley Baptist Church	Ripley	Shaw	\$1,749.00	436	Levi Baptist Church	Levi	Clarke
301	FBC Louise	Louise	Humphreys	\$1,740.00	437	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Mount Vernon	George-Greene
302	Interstate Baptist Church	Shaw	Mid-Delta	\$1,708.98	438	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Mount Zion	Newton
303	Wellman Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	Lincoln	\$1,706.61	439	Friendship Baptist Church	Friendship	Rankin
304	West Union Baptist Church	Carriere	Pearl River	\$1,705.36	440	Midway Baptist Church	Midway	Lincoln
305	Wynndale Baptist Church	Terry	Metro	\$1,700.00	441	Calvary West Point Baptist Church	Calvary West Point	Leake
306	Lebanon Baptist Church	Ripley	Lebanon	\$1,700.00	442	New Black Jack Baptist Church	New Black Jack	West Point
307	West Heights Baptist Church	Pontotoc	Pontotoc Co	\$1,700.00	443	Morrison Chapel Baptist Church	Morrison Chapel	Union
308	Good Hope Baptist Church	Philadelpia	Neshoba	\$1,700.00	444	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	East Pleasant Grove	Cleveland
309	Desoto Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	X-Tended Mission Network	\$1,695.20	445	Bethel Baptist Church	Bethel	Quitman
310	FBC Carthage	Carthage	Leake	\$1,695.00	446	FBC Holly Springs	FBC Holly Springs	Holcomb
311	Clifton Baptist Church	Forest	Scott	\$1,681.07	447	Benoit Baptist Church	Benoit	Holly Springs
312	Gum Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	Lincoln	\$1,680.94	448	Longview Baptist Church	Longview	Benoit
313	Main Street Baptist Church	Goodman	Holmes	\$1,668.42	449	Mount Hebron Baptist Church	Mount Hebron	Belden
314	Central Baptist Church	McComb	Pike	\$1,662.10	450	Spring Hill Baptist Church	Spring Hill	Collins
315	Bethel Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	Lincoln	\$1,658.48	451	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Pilgrim's Rest	Oakland
316	Tishomingo Baptist Church	Tishomingo Co	Tishomingo Co	\$1,655.00	452	Camp Creek Baptist Church	Camp Creek	North Central
317	Glenfield Baptist Church	Union Co	Yazoo	\$1,650.00	453	Magnolia Baptist Church	Magnolia	Houlika
318	FBC Sataria	Sataria	Panola Co	\$1,646.00	454	Enterprise Baptist Church	Enterprise	Guntown
319	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Bateville	Copiah	\$1,645.30	455	Harperville Baptist Church	Harperville	Laurel
320	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	Chickasaw	\$1,643.00	456	New Hope Baptist Church	New Hope	Biloxi
321	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Woodland	Pike	\$1,630.00	457	Salem Baptist Church	Salem	Enterprise
322	Union Baptist Church	Magnolia	Jasper	\$1,629.00	458	Center Baptist Church	Center	Harperville
323	Bay Springs Baptist Church	Bay Springs	Walshall	\$1,624.00	459	FBC McComb	FBC McComb	Starkville
324	Ethel Baptist Church	Ethel	Atala	\$1,623.35	460	Salem Baptist Church	Salem	Golden
325	Crystal Springs Baptist Church	Tylertown	Lauderdale	\$1,622.39	461	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Oak Grove	Blue Springs
326	Causeyville Baptist Church	Meridian	Pontotoc	\$1,620.49	462	Roseland Park Baptist Church	Roseland Park	Golden
327	Center Hill Baptist Church	Ecru	Pontotoc Co	\$1,610.79	463	Easthaven Baptist Church	Easthaven	Blue Springs
328	FBC Columbia	Columbia	Golden Triangle	\$1,600.25	464	Antioch Baptist Church	Antioch	McComb
329	Pope Baptist Church	Pope	Panola Co	\$1,600.00	465	Corinth Baptist Church	Corinth	Raleigh
330	Border Springs Baptist Church	Calcedonia	Golden Triangle	\$1,595.00	466	Spring Hill Baptist Church	Spring Hill	Benton
331	Dekalb Baptist Church	De Kalb	Kemper	\$1,580.00	467	Union Baptist Church	Union	Picayune
332	Calvary Baptist Church	New Augusta	Perry	\$1,570.91	468	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Hillcrest	Brookhaven
333	Harrisburg Baptist Church	Tupelo	Lee	\$1,570.00	469	Immanuel Baptist Church	Immanuel	Louin
334	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church	Corinth	Alcorn	\$1,560.00	470	Southeast Baptist Church	Southeast	Carthage
335	Succa Baptist Church	Saucier	Gulf Coast	\$1,561.55	471	Grace Baptist Church	Grace	Waterford
336	Chapel Baptist Church	Greenwood	Mid-Delta	\$1,557.00	472	Thomastown Baptist Church	Thomastown	Lee
337	Beulah Baptist Church	Decatur	Newton	\$1,554.00	473	Pineview Baptist Church	Pineview	Nettleton
338	New Prospect Baptist Church	Luka	Tishomingo Co	\$1,547.21	474	New Salem Baptist Church	New Salem	New Albany
339	Macedonia Baptist Church	Byhalia	X-Tended Mission Network	\$1,528.72	475	Oak Dale Baptist Church	Oak Dale	Greenwood
340	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	Copiah	\$1,526.83	476	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Mount Pleasant	Sumral
341	Enterprise Baptist Church	Liberty	Mississippi	\$1,522.00	477	Charity Baptist Church	Charity	Jackson
342	FBC Brooklyn	Brooklyn	Lebanon	\$1,522.00	478	Fellowship Baptist Church	Fellowship	McComb
343	Randolph Baptist Church	Randolph	Pontotoc Co	\$1,523.00	479	Meadowood Baptist Church	Meadowood	Benit
344	Auburn Baptist Church	Tupelo	Lee	\$1,500.00	480	Williamsburg Baptist Church	Williamsburg	Gloster
345	Providence Baptist Church	McClennan	Choctaw	\$1,500.00	481	FBC Calhoun City	FBC Calhoun City	Waynesboro
346	FBC Ellisville	Ellisville	Jones	\$1,500.00	482	Providence Baptist Church	Providence	Starkville
347	Roundaway Baptist Church	Doddsville	Mid-Delta	\$1,500.00	483	Salem Baptist Church	Salem	Amory
348	FBC Tchula	Tchula	Holmes	\$1,500.00	484	Central Baptist Church	Central	Collins
349	West Jackson Street Church	Tupelo	Lee	\$1,500.00	485	FBC Chicora	FBC Chicora	Calhoun City
350	Drew Baptist Church	Drew	Mid-Delta	\$1,500.00	486	Fayette Baptist Church	Fayette	Grenada
351	New Bethel Baptist Church	Philadelpia	Neshoba	\$1,500.00	487	Shiloh Baptist Church	Shiloh	Collins
352	West McComb Baptist Church	McComb	Pike	\$1,500.00	488	Elam Baptist Church	Elam	Byram
353	Ebenezer Baptist Church	Kosciusko	Atala	\$1,500.00	489	Arlington Heights Baptist Church	Arlington Heights	Buckatunna
354	Trinity Baptist Church	Fulton	Itawamba	\$1,500.00	490	Journey of Faith Baptist Church	Journey of Faith	Fayette
355	Scoboa Baptist Church	Scoboa	Kemper	\$1,494.00	491	Birmingham Ridge Baptist Church	Birmingham Ridge	Sonag
356	Calvary Baptist Church	Smithdale	Mississippi	\$1,492.30	492	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Shady Grove	Coffeeville
357	FBC Belmont	Belmont	Tishomingo Co	\$1,471.77	493	New Liberty Baptist Church	New Liberty	Pascagoula
358	Central Baptist Church	Benton	Yazoo	\$1,468.00	494	Mars Hill Baptist Church	Mars Hill	Morton
359	White Oak Baptist Church	Carthage	Union Co	\$1,462.00	495	New Bethlehem Baptist Church	New Bethlehem	Brandon
360	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	Luka	Tishomingo Co	\$1,442.56	496	Antioch Baptist Church	Antioch	Saltillo
361	South Crossroads Baptist Church	Oak Vale	Covington-Jeff Davis	\$1,410.00	497	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Dry Creek	Lucedale
362	Society Hill Baptist Church	Georgetown	Copiah	\$1,406.10	498	Bethsaida Baptist Church	Bethsaida	Morton
363	Georgetown Baptist Church	Taylor	Lafayette	\$1,404.31	499	Ocobla Baptist Church	Ocobla	Philadelphia
364	Taylor Baptist Church	Benton	Yazoo	\$1,400.00	500			
365	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Pascagoula	Jackson	\$1,395.53	501			
366	FBC Pascagoula				502			
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So. Baptists put finishing touches on Sochi outreach

SOCHI, Russia (BP and local reports) — Will Baptists have a witness at the Winter Olympics in Russia? Will Sochi be safe from terrorists during the games? What other issues could arise?

Marc Ira Hooks, one of the International Mission Board (IMB) main strategists for the Sochi Olympics who was also involved in outreach at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, spoke to such questions in an interview about this winter's Feb. 7-23 games.

Hooks is the creator/co-director of Engage Sochi, the IMB's initiative focusing both on church planting in the Winter Olympics host city and on outreach to Olympic competitors and guests from throughout the world.

The city of Sochi, one of the few resort areas and warm-water ports in Russia, has a population of about 420,500 (2010 Census). The city is about 70% Russian, 20% Armenian, and a little over two per cent each Georgian and Ukrainian. Some research sources list the city as being as much as 95% Christian, with a strong Orthodox presence.

Sochi, home to Nobel Prize laureate Andre Geim, a Russian physicist, will host the Paralympics later this year and the 2018 World Cup soccer competition.

Q: Where did you get the idea for Engage Sochi?

Hooks: For whatever reason, maybe it was the time difference, it was late at night, we [Marc and his wife Kellye] were sitting on the bed and I just remember the guy [on television] pulling out the envelope and saying, "The next Olympics will be in Sochi, Russia." I remember looking at Kellye and saying, "I don't know how, why or whatever, but we're going to be involved in that."

Q: What did you learn from the Vancouver Olympics that applies to Sochi?

Hooks: As we came away from Vancouver, we started saying, we as the IMB, our concentration, our focus, is on church planting and while mass seed sowing is good and should be done, there's more to reaching people with the Gospel than just giving them the Gospel and walking away. So, we wanted to create something that as people came into contact with the Gospel, that they were touched for a long period of time.

Q: What is Engage Sochi?

Hooks: We want something that is a multi-tiered approach and... not just [during] the fortnight of Olympic competition in Sochi. We're talking about reaching the people of Sochi before, during, and after the games.

Q: What are the plans for following up with people who respond to the Gospel?

Hooks: We want everybody that we come in to contact with to have the opportunity to continue the conversations that were started in Sochi. So, regardless of where that person is from, we want to connect them with a believer in their area who can make a relationship with that person and continue to speak with them about issues of faith.

Q: What has gone on in Sochi in preparation for those coming?



READY FOR GAMES — Marc Ira Hooks, co-director of Engage Sochi, rests on one of the many landmarks that point the way to Sochi in Russia before the Feb. 7 start of the Winter Olympics in the Black Sea port city near the Caucasus Mountains. Hooks and his ministry co-workers are leading a focus on outreach and church planting in Sochi as part of Southern Baptists' outreach for the Winter Olympics. (BP file photo)

Hooks: For two years, we've had people coming and working with our church planters in Sochi, in winter and in summer. In the winter they are doing ministry in the mountains at the ski resorts and that kind of thing, and in the summer they're doing beach reach, ministry and ministry in the city. So as our friends come in these next couple of weeks, it's just another phase of building Christ's church in Sochi.

Q: What sort of training has been given to those coming?

Hooks: This is a relational ministry and our folks will be coming and making relationships. Interestingly enough, the majority of our groups that are coming are performing arts kinds of groups. So we have a large men's choir, we have a bluegrass band and a Dixieland band. We have a drama group coming and a church choir coming, and some people doing clowning.

Basically, they're going to be walking through areas, come together, perform, talk to people, and disperse again. So a lot of it will have that flash mob kind of feel. They're not doing scheduled performances on stages, they're there to meet people and their performing arts are a way to be able to do that.

Q: Are you frightened of the security issues?

Hooks: I would not use the word, "frightened." I would say I am concerned. It's a healthy concern, however. I am confident in the Russian government's ability to do what they say, and the Russian government has pledged that this will not only be the biggest Olympics in history, which I

think it will be, but it's going to be the safest Olympics in history and so, while there have been threats made and have been other threats that have been carried out, I really and truly believe that from January through March, Sochi, Russia, is probably going to be one of the safest cities on the planet.

Q: How potentially disruptive will Russia's position on homosexuality be?

Hooks: There will be people who try to make this an issue, there will be people going to the games for that [reason], but the last reports that we've heard, demonstrations will be allowed. Demonstrations over different issues, this being one of them, will be allowed in the city but they will only be allowed in certain designated areas and people who are coming to demonstrate must have permits to do so, and that kind of thing.

So, it's not going to disappear and it'll be an issue that's there and the media will cover it, but will it be a disruptive factor in the city? No, I don't think so.

Q: What city in the U.S. is Sochi most like?

Hooks: It would have to be some place in California. Sochi is considered the "longest city in Europe." It's about 90 miles long and it wraps along the coast of the Black Sea but in places, it's only a mile wide and — the other thing — you can literally stand on the beach with the Black Sea to your back and see snow-covered mountains right there.

Q: What would you want as your hope-and-pray-for result for Engage Sochi?

Hooks: It would be that multitudes of churches are planted around the globe as a result of this and that the people who come to the Sochi Olympics will be connected with a church planter, regardless of where they're from. So, that's the home run for us: that new churches would be planted in Sochi and beyond.

Q: How can we include the Sochi Olympics in our daily prayers?

Hooks: We want to pray for all of our friends who will be in Sochi during the games and we want to pray that they are able to do the things that they are there to do, that they have more than just a pleasurable Olympic experience, that they are able to share the Gospel and to reach people, and connect them to a church planting network. That's number one.

Number two, you can monitor @EngageSochi Twitter account, and through this we will be doing updates and news for daily prayer requests.

Pray for our Engage Sochi staff who are responsible for the mechanics of this whole project, making sure people are where they need to be when they need to be there, and are safe in doing so. [Pray] for open hearts and receptivity, that God would draw to us the people that we're supposed to talk to.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information on Southern Baptists' efforts concerning the Winter Olympics in Sochi, visit commissionstories.com/sochi-winter-olympics. The site will be updated with stories, photos, videos, prayer requests, and more during the Feb. 7-23 games.